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Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8 HEADED "PEKING'S IODINE 131."

2. IT'S UNCONSCIONABLE THAT CHINA CONTINUES TO MUCK UP THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE WITH RADIO-ACTIVE FALLOUT FROM ITS NUCLEAR BOMB TESTS. ITS LAST BLAST, ON NOV. 17, ENDED UP DUSTING SOME MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITH A QUANTITY OF POISONOUS IODINE 131. IF THAT IS NOT A HOSTILE ACT--HOSTILE IN EFFECT, IF NOT INTENT--WHAT IS? WHO DO THE CHINESE THINK THEY ARE? FRANCE, THE OTHER BIG POLLUTER OF RECENT YEARS? INDIA, THE POOREST AND THEREFORE BY ITS OWN LOGIC THE PUREST OF THE POLLUTERS?

3. CHINA, WHEN TAXED WITH THE MATTER, SAYS IT'S ONLY DO-ING WHAT THE AMERICANS AND RUSSIANS DID BEFORE THEY MOVED THEIR TESTS UNDERGROUND: "BREAKING THE NUCLEAR MONOPOLY OF THE SUPERPOWERS," IT'S CALLED IN PEKING. IN THE U.S. THIS ARGUMENT SWAYS THE MORE GUILT-RIDDEN AMONG US. IT GOES OVER EVEN BIGGER AMONG THE DOUBLE-STANDARD CROWD IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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THIRD WORLD. BUT THE STARK FACT REMAINS THAT PEKING,

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STILL, TODAY, REGULARLY, ARROGATES TO ITSELF A RIGHT TO

CONDUCT A FORM OF UNDECLARED RADIOLOGICAL WARFARE WHICH,
IN THEORY AT LEAST, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CONDEMNS.

4. ONE POSSIBLE WAY OUT FOR THE CHINESE IS TO TEST UN-
DERGROUND. THIS POSES A QUESTION. THE CHINESE FIRST
TESTED UNDERGROUND, AT LOP NOR, IN 1969. THEY DID IT
AGAIN LAST YEAR AND, MOST RECENTLY, LAST OCTOBER. WHY
DON'T THEY CONDUCT ALL THEIR TESTS UNDERGROUND? T;E
FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT
THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHECK TO SEE IF THE UNITED STATES,
BY SELLING DRILLING EQUIPMENT OR INSTRUMENTATION, MIGHT
OBVIATE PEKING'S FELT NEED TO TEST IN THE ATMOSPHERE. THE
DEPARTMENT REPLIED THAT THE PRACTICE "CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED
TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEFICIENCIES, SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY
CO;DUCTED THREE UNDERGROUND TESTS." BUT THAT SPARSE
FORMULATION HARDLY ANSWERS ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT
BE RAISED.

5. TO SELL CHINA TECHNOLOGY FACILITATING UNDERGROUND
TESTS, IF IT ASKED (IT HASN'T), WO'LD BE NOT ONLY TO
FIGHT POLLUTION BUT TO BECOME A KIND OF DIRECT MILITARY
PARTNER. THAT'S A LARGE STEP. RUSSIANS WOULD HAVE ONE
KIND OF ANXIETY, JAPANESE ANOTHER, CALIFORNIANS A THIRD.
THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, THOUGH TEMPTED BY THE THOUGHT
THAT MILITARY-RELATED SALES MIGHT HELP KEEP PEKING STIFF
AGAINST MOSCOW, GOT NO FURTHER THAN APPROVING THE SALE
OF A COMPUTER WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD--BUT, STATE SAYS,
WON'T--BE USED IN A MILITARY APPLICATION. THE ISSUE
IS OBVIOUSLY TOO BIG TO BE RESOLVED WITHIN A POLLUTION
CONTEXT ALONE. BUT POLLUTION REMAINS A LEGITIMATE
AMERICAN CONCERN.

6. IF THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS, WITH OTHER
DIPLOMATIC FISH TO FRY, DID NOT FIND IT FEASIBLE TO PUSH
HARD ENOUGH ON TESTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THEN THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION, LED BY A MAN OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR
SENSIBILITIES, CAN PERHAPS LOOK FOR WAYS TO MAKE A FRESH
START. IT MIGHT, FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER SOME OF SANE'S
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RECENT PROPOSALS FOR INVOLVING PEKING IN FUTURE ARMS
NEGOTIATIONS. NO DOUBT THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.
THE POINT IS, PEKING SHOULDN'T POLLUTE. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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